

Appl. No. 10/657,543  
Response dated February 21, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of May 22, 2006

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated May 22, 2006. Claims 20-25 and 46-51 are pending in the application. Claims 1-19 and 26-45 were canceled. Claims 22, 25, 48, 51 were objected to because step "c" should be step "d" according to the Examiner. Claims 48 and 51 have been amended so that step "c" in each of those dependent claims is now step "d". For claims 22 and 25, step "c" is correct because of amendments to claim 22.

The Examiner indicates that claims 20-25 and 46-51 are rejected.

The Examiner indicates that claims 20-25 and 46-51 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Hurlburt in view of Blakeman.

Each of the claims has a restriction that provides a hinge (claim 20) or pivot (claim 46) that enables the lid to pivot with respect to the second annular ring member. This arrangement can be seen in figure 2 of the drawings. It is the second annular shroud or second annular ring member that carries the lid pivotally or hingedly attached thereto as shown in figure 2. The lid is designated as part number 12. The second annular shroud or ring is designated by the numeral 48. The hinge or pivot is designated by the numeral 19. That assembly of part numbers 48, 19, 12 is placed upon an existing ring or shroud which is part number 24 in figure 2.

Figures 2-3 show the claimed (e.g. claims 20, 46) arrangement. The references of record do not anticipate nor suggest this arrangement sought to be patented. The Examiner cites Blakeman which does not suggest nor disclose any hinged or pivotal arrangement of one member with respect to the other. The Examiner also cites Hurlburt. Hurlburt provides a plate that does show a hinge at 7. However, in order to anticipate the claims, Hurlburt would have to provide that hinge 7 as part of a second annular shroud (claim 20) or a second annular ring member (claim 46) that also carries the claimed interlocking structure (see claims 20 and 46). No such structure is seen in Hurlburt. In Hurlburt, the part 5 (cover) that provides the hinge 7 does not provide any locking arrangement at all. It is merely a cover plate to be removed to gain access to a bolt case 12 having a key pin 13. The Hurlburt reference teaches away from the present invention by providing no lock or interlock at all, but rather a keyless notch 11 in the top of the cover member 5 for convenience in grasping the finger piece 10 when the same is in the down

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position (see lines 46-49 of Hurlburt). Therefore, the structure of Hurlburt that provides a hinge at 7 does not have any type of a lock at all.

The Blakeman reference is not hinged in any manner. Therefore, it is believed that the claims as now amended are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious by the combination of Hurlburt and Blakeman. For these same reasons, new claim 52 is believed patentable.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this paper timely.

Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0694.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper (7 pages total) is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks at (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below.

Charles C. Garvey, Jr.

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Charles Garvey 6/21/06

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Page 7 of 7